



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
WASHINGTON, DC 20307-5001

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

MCHL-NS

16 March 2000

SUBJECT: Joint Committee Military Neurosurgery Meeting - 31 October 1999

1. Minutes for the Joint Committee Military Neurosurgeons held the 31 October 1999 in Boston Massachusetts. After the chairman welcome and update the final organizational structure for the committee was approved. LTC Monacci serves as the treasure and will assume chairmanship of the committee at the CNS meeting in San Antonio Texas in the fall of 2000. It was that decided at the next meeting in April in San Francisco that the new treasurer would be decided on and nominations will be taken shortly.
2. The research committee discussed the Neurotrauma Data Sheet, which was reviewed and authorized to accompany any neurosurgeon who is deployed to a conflict and will serve to create a research database and registry for all cranial and spinal surgical wartime injuries. This data sheet was prepared in collaboration with the Defense Veterans Head Injury Program. Copies are going to be maintained by the Consultants of the Surgeon Generals and then distributed as needed.
3. Information on the textbook of Military Medicine was discussed and attentive table of contents was announced. Suggestions for revisions were made and a final table of contents will be approved at the AANS meeting in April. Current plans are to disseminate copies once the textbook is completed to each member of the AANS and CNS free of charge. A verbal commitment for outside funding to support this initiative has been secured. A military award was discuss and it was suggested that it be presented in the memory of the late Colonel Richard Swengle a past Army Neurosurgeon and ways of funding this award is being investigated. The award will be presented to a deserving Military Resident who will get funding to attend an annual meeting.
4. The secretary treasury report discussed the present membership status of approximately five hundred people base upon the return of recently distributed postcards. The web page is being maintained and can be accessed through the Neurosurgery on call as well as the Walter Reed Home Page. On that web page will be meetings, agendas and minutes as well as means of communication with the committee members.
5. The man power subcommittee report discussed the active duty and reserve strength and discussed whether present manning will be adequate for both peacetime and combat care during future conflicts. It was recommended that this committee evaluate ways to recruit and retain neurosurgeons both on active duty and reserves. The man power subcommittee also discussed a depmed show on the exhibit floor of the AANS in April.

6. The policy committee report discussed the status of a neurotrauma debate during the trauma session of the national meetings. The policy subcommittee also discussed the healthcare issues as well as textbook of Military Medicine which was previously discussed. The policy subcommittee also discussed current reserved training and suggested that it be evaluated for effectiveness and any way to make improvements to better field effective datafield neurosurgery capability.

7. The education subcommittee report discussed the status of a plenary session presentation by head of the military neurosurgery committee during which time issues of importance to military neurosurgery and neurosurgery at large would be addressed. The education subcommittee also discussed means for providing GME opportunities for military neurosurgeons, which at present is an unfunded activity. A reduced military rate for certain AANS and CNS courses has already been established as its initial step to try to improve the GME opportunities for the active duty military neurosurgeons. They will evaluate ways to expand on this.

8. The research subcommittee discussed the status of join operative databases throughout the DoD which may enable large-scale studies of neurosurgical issues be performed. The status of neurosurgical studies funded by DoD was also brought up. At the present time these studies are limited; however, ways of expanding them were discussed by the members of the research committee. At the conclusion of the meeting a brief summary of the agenda for the next meeting and what we hope to accomplish in the meantime was discussed. The meeting was then adjourned.